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Description of a new species of CULICIDÆ.

BY R. OSTEN SACKEN.

Although averse to the publication of single new species, I allow myself an exception for a new and apparently rare insect belonging to an equally rare genus, and which affords, for this reason, a valuable addition to the North American fauna.

The insects commonly known under the name of mosquitoes, and distinguished by their long proboscis, stinging in the female sex, harmless in the male, are represented in our latitudes by three principal genera.

Anopheles, with a pair of palpi as long as the proboscis in both sexes.

Culex, with the palpi long in the male, short in the female sex.

Aedes, with the palpi short in both sexes.

The genus *Culex* is by far the most numerous in species. I possess fifteen or twenty North American species in my collection. About thirty European species have been described, many of which, however, are probably synonyms. *Anopheles* comes next; four European species are known, and I possess three from North America. Of the genus *Aedes* only a single species is known, *A. cinereus*, Meigen; it occurs in central Europe, and seems to be rare.*

An American *Aedes*, distinguished from the European species by its beautiful metallic colors, is therefore an interesting discovery. Some eight or nine years ago, I found a female specimen in Washington, D. C., and last year I was fortunate enough to secure the male in Brooklyn, New York.

***Aedes sapphirinus*, n. sp.** ♂ ♀.—Fuscus; fronte, thoracis lineâ mediâ et pleurarum strigis cyaneo-micantibus; pedibus nigris; coxis, femorumque basi pallidâ; femorum tibiârumque extremo apice superne niveis. Long. corp. 0.13. Long. al. 0.12 of an inch.

Front blackish, with a metallic-blue reflection along the eyes, espe-

* Mr. Ginmerthal described a second species, *A. rufus*, in the *Bull. de la Soc. des Natur. de Moscou*, 1845; but it is very little known yet.

cially in the middle; antennæ blackish, scapus tawny; those of the male apparently 15-jointed ($13+2$); flagellum with 12 beautifully bearded joints; a thirteenth, elongated, linear joint has some scattered hairs, but no beard like the preceding ones. Proboscis long, reaching in the male, if bent backwards, to about the middle of the abdomen; rather conspicuously incrassated at the tip; perhaps still longer in the female (the abdomen of my female specimen is somewhat injured). Thorax brownish-tawny, darker above, paler on the pleuræ; a metallic blue longitudinal line along the middle of the thorax reaches the scutellum; three similar marks on the pleuræ, the upper of which is in the shape of a short line running from the base of the wing towards the head. Abdomen brownish above, paler below; knob of the halteres brown, stem pale. Feet brownish, paler at the base; a snow-white dot on the upper side of the tip of the femora and of the tibiæ; when looked at very obliquely these white dots appear slightly pale bluish, and the tibiæ and tarsi likewise show a faint bluish reflection. Wings clothed with brown scales, but showing, in an oblique light, numerous blue reflections, especially a stripe near the basis, between the third and fourth longitudinal veins. (Washington, D. C.; Brooklyn, N. Y., by Mr. Brevoort.)

Observation.—In my female specimen the scales are somewhat rubbed off on the feet, which for this reason appear pale-tawny; still the white dots are distinctly visible.